

EXCISE

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Congress. - 3

SECRETAFGHANISTANGENEVA TALKS

There remain two stumbling blocks:

-- the Pakistanis want to pursue question of an interim government. Zia would like this question resolved before going to signature at Geneva.

-- we insist that Moscow agree to halt its arms aid to Kabul at same time we end our military aid to resistance. We have publicly stated that our mutual obligations must be symmetrical.

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B1-A5CONGRESSIONAL VIEWS

o Senators Humphrey and Byrd and others have have been vocal in criticizing our policy, specifically, our commitment to end aid to resistance when troop withdrawals begin. Byrd had threatened to delay Senate action on the INF treaty until an Afghan accord is reached.

o On Feb. 29, the Senate passed a resolution (77 to 0) supporting the resistance and calling for continued aid to the Afghans until the Soviet military occupation is terminated. The House plans to take up a similar resolution March 8.

o We are now engaged in contingency planning for post-settlement assistance for resettling up to 5 million refugees and for follow-on reconstruction.

-- we must consult Congress on the need for generous U.S. contributions for large scale assistance programs in the coming months.

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TALKING POINTS

-- For eight years the Administration has insisted on the rapid and complete withdrawal of the Soviet troops in Afghanistan, the early return of the refugees in safety and honor, self-determination for the Afghan people and restoration of Afghanistan's independent, sovereign and non-aligned status.

-- We have pursued this policy by:

- o providing strong support to the Afghan resistance.
- o working closely with the Pakistani government.
- o reminding Soviets at every opportunity that this issue places a heavy burden on U.S.-Soviet relations.

-- At the Geneva talks, the parties have agreed to a 9-month timetable; and half of all troops leaving within first 90 days. We welcome this progress on the timetable issue.

-- The U.S. is not a party to the negotiations, but we have been asked to provide our support in the form of being a guarantor when the process is completed. If an agreement is reached in Geneva, we will closely examine the texts before making the decision on whether to act as a guarantor.

-- The essential details which have to be addressed before we decide to assume obligations as a guarantor under the Geneva accords include:

- o Soviet commitment to end its arms aid to Kabul. Our obligations under Geneva must be balanced by reciprocal obligations by the other side. In other words, we will continue our military support to the resistance until a fully satisfactory agreement is reached and there is a symmetrical cessation of military supplies to the Kabul regime.
- o Additional phasing and monitoring details. Pakistanis are pressing to nail these down.

-- We hope the Afghans will be able to reach agreement on an interim governing mechanism which could help facilitate the return of the refugees and restore peace to Afghanistan.

-- We must plan for the tremendous needs for the resettlement of up to 5 million refugees and for the reconstruction effort to follow. We will need Congress' help in coming up with generous U.S. contributions to this effort.

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